



**600.18 Code of Ethics**

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**600.18-1 Policy**

- I. A written code of ethics that prohibits Hendry County Sheriff's Office members assigned to the Corrections Division from using their official position to secure privileges for themselves or others and from engaging in activities that constitute a conflict of interest is provided to all Corrections Division members.
- II. This policy shall require the highest possible level of conduct from Corrections Division members promotes the protection of the Hendry County Sheriff's Office and facilitates the recruitment and retention of members of the highest caliber. These high standards shall be maintained by requiring compliance with the conditions listed below.

**600.18-2 General Standards of Conduct**

- I. Any effort to realize personal gain through public appointment, beyond remuneration provided by the HCSO, is a violation of public trust, as is conduct which would create a justifiable impression in the public mind that such trust is being violated. To meet the ethical standards prescribed by this policy, members shall adhere to the standards of conduct hereinafter set forth.
- II. Any effort, by any person, to influence a member of the Corrections Division to violate standards of ethical conduct set forth in this policy or to engage in conduct which would create a justifiable impression in the public mind that such trust is being violated shall also be a violation of ethical standards.
- III. The term "member" shall apply to all persons employed full or part time by the HCSO, and assigned to the Corrections Division.

**600.18-3 Conflicts of Interest**

- I. It shall be considered unethical and potentially prosecutable for any member to engage in any activity which, directly or indirectly, constitutes a conflict of interest. The following prohibited activities determine a conflict of interest:

- A. No member with an interest, financial or otherwise, in any business entity shall participate in a decision or action affecting such a business entity or, knowingly participate in any such decision or action affecting his or her immediate family.
- B. No member shall act as attorney, agent, broker, representative or employee for, or receive compensation or anything of value from any firm, person or corporation transacting any business of any kind with the HCSO or any instrumentality thereof. This includes participation in any litigation or proceedings adverse to the HCSO or its instrumentality's or giving opinion evidence against the interests of the HCSO or any agencies of the State.
- C. No member shall represent any person with interests adverse to the HCSO or in conflict with his or her official public duties or attempt to influence for a purpose contrary to the provisions of this policy.
- II. The following activities relate specifically to relationships with inmates and are prohibited:
  - A. Accepting gifts or favors from any inmate's family or their agent.
  - B. Providing gifts or favors to any inmate, family of inmate or agent except as authorized in the official performance of duties.
  - C. Developing relationships between staff and inmates other than those necessary in the normal conduct of business. Members shall not use their position to become emotionally and romantically involved with inmates.

#### **600.18-4 Confidential Information**

- I. No member shall use confidential information obtained in the course of official duty for actual or anticipated gain.
- II. A member found guilty of dispensing confidential information may be prosecuted in accordance with agency rules and state, or federal statutes.

#### **600.18-5 Distribution of Material**

- I. The Corrections Division Lieutenant shall ensure that each HCSO Corrections Division member is provided a copy of this directive. This distribution shall include all members full time, part time, and contract personnel.
- II. A copy of this directive shall be provided to each new member or contract employee during facility orientation.

#### **REFERENCES**

State/Federal Regulations:  
Florida Model Jail Standards

FCAC:  
N/A

PREA:

N/A

Forms:

N/A

Other Policy/ Procedure References:

600.00 Table of Content

N/A